

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 /097 W

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P 281100Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2292

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN PRIORITY 493

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP, SS, MO

SUBJ: SPANISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONS: BOMBING INCIDENT IN MELILLA

REF: MADRID 4500

1. FURTHER TO UPSURGE IN VIOLENCE IN SAHARA AND PRESIDIO OF CEUTA REPORTED IN REFTEL OFFICIALS NEWS SERVICES ANNOUNCED JUNE 27 THAT TWO MOROCCANS WERE FOUND DEAD THE SAME DAY IN PRESIDIO OF MELILLA FOLLOWING PRESUMED PREMATURE EXPLOSION OF TIME BOMB. TWO OTHER MOROCCANS IN ALLEGED TERRORIST GROUP REPORTEDLY ESCAPED. SPANISH MEDIA HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO LATEST INCIDENTS. COMMANDING GENERAL OF MELILLA, IN RESPONSE TO "VIVAS" FOR SPAIN, ARMY, FRANCO, AND MELILLA, BY CROWD OF 2,500, PROMISED "TO ACT WITH DECISIVENESS" BEARING IN MIND THE NEED TO AVOID BEING CARRIED AWAY BY "NERVOUSNESS".

2. EDITOR OF NEWSPAPER WITH LARGEST CIRCULATION IN SPAIN ("ABC-MONARCHIST), TORCUATO LUCA DE TENA,
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RAN LEAD EDITORIAL IN JUNE 27 EDITION URGING SPAIN NOT

TO DEFEND THE IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE SPANISH SAHARA WAS NOT VIABLE AS INDEPENDENT ENTITY. FOR SPAIN TO WITHDRAW FROM AREA AND PRESERVE PEACE THERE, HE WROTE, IT WAS NECESSARY THAT SPAIN COLLABORATE WITH NEIGHBORS COUNTRIES. SPAIN, THEREFORE, COULD NOT AFFORD TO CLOSE DOORS "A PRIORI" TO ANY POSSIBLE SOLUTION. FOLLOW-UP EDITORIAL IN "ABC" JUNE 28 REITERATES LUCA DE TENA'S THEME OF NON-VIABILITY OF INDEPENDENT SAHARA SAVING THAT ABSORPTION OF AREA BY NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRY WAS A POSSIBILITY. FOR MOROCCO, ISSUE PRESENTED "MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH". BOTH SPAIN AND MOROCCO HAD INTEREST IN AVOIDING ABSORPTION OF SAHARA BY NATIONA INSPIRED BY "DISQUIETING POLITICAL TENDENCIES". EDITORIAL NOTED THAT SAHARA WAS GEOGRAPHICAL PROLONGATION OF MOROCCO. ECHOING THEME PREVIOUSLY ADVOCATED BY LUCA DE TENA, JUNE 28 EDITORIAL URGES SAFEGUARDING OF LEGITIMATE SPANISH INTERESTS BY "INTELLIGENT AGREEMENTS". THESE COULD INCLUDE JOINT EXPLOTATION OF SAHARAN PHOSPHATES AND QUESTIONS OF MILITARY SECURITY. PRECONDITION FOR AGREEMENTS, HOWEVER, WAS CESSATION OF "MOROCCAN AGRESSIONS".

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, ISTIQLAL SECRETARY GENERAL BUCETTA, ACCOMPANIED BY DIRECTOR OF "L'OPINION" OF RABAT, ABDELHAFID KABIRI, ENDED TWO-DAY VISIT TO ALICANTE JUNE 26 AS GUEST OF MAYOR. (EMBASSY COMMENT: ON HIS PREVIOUS VISITS TO SPAIN BUCETTA HAS MET WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND SERVED AS AN INFORMAL CHANNEL BETWEEN SPAIN AND MOROCCO.) BUCETTA TOLD LOCAL PRESS REP IN ALICANTE THAT TWO COUNTRIES WERE HAVING SUCCESS IN WORKING OUT FISHING ARRANGEMENTS ON BASIS OF AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN JANUARY 1974.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, BOMBING, DEATHS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID04501
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750225-0674
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975066/aaaaafav.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 4500
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONS: BOMBING INCIDENT IN MELILLA
TAGS: PFOR, SP, SS, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006